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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /174 W
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R 211105Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9237

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, VS
SUBJECT: GVN POL POLICY

REF: SAIGON 19767

1. REFTEL PROVIDED NEW SCHEDULE OF POL PRICES EFFECTIVE
NOV. 20 AND INDICATED FURTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES TO COME.

2. EFFECTIVE NOV. 21 FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO
CONSERVE POL ARE IN EFFECT:

A. AN IMMEDIATE 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN POL SUPPLIES
TO ALL REPEAT ALL USERS IN CIVILIAN SECTOR. REDUCTION TO BE
BASED ON ALLOTMENTS DURING THIRD QUARTER CY 1973.

B. 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION BY ALL GVN USERS,
TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN 60 DAYS. AFFECTED ARE PUBLIC COMPANIES,
SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES, AND SOME NON-COMBAT MILITARY FACTILITIES,
AS WELL AS CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

3. GVN HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR
CONSERVATION OF POWER (TRANSLATION APPROXIMATE), CHAIRED BY
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MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY NGUYEN DUC CUONG, AND INCLUDING

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THE MINISTRIES OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, DEFENSE AND INTERIOR. IN ADDITION TO OVERSEEING THE MEASURES ALREADY ANNOUNCED, THE COMMITTEE WILL STUDY ADDITIONAL MEASURES REQUIRED TO HOLD POL EXPENDITURES IN CY 1974 TO $100 MILLION. POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL MEASURES ARE SAID TO INCLUDE CLOSING OF GAS STATIONS ONE DAY A WEEK AND BANNING WEEKEND HIGHWAY TRAVEL. COMMITTEE WILL GIVE EARLIEST ATTENTION TO MEANS OF EXPANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

4. MINISTER CUONG ANNOUNCED THE NEW PROGRAM IN TVN ADDRESS EVENING OF NOV. 20. GVN WILL FOLLOW WITH PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING EXTENSIVE USE OF TV, TO EDUCATE PUBLIC TO REALITIES OF SITUATION AND TO EXHORT PUBLIC TO ECONOMIZE ON POL USE THROUGH CAR POOLING, TURNING OFF LIGHTS, SUBSTITUTING CHARCOAL AND OTHER SOLID FUELS FOR KEROSENE, ETC.

5. GVN ADVISES THAT TIS PROGRAM IS BEING FULLY COORDINATED WITH THE POL COMPANIES.
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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